

satellites into 817 km orbit. The other nations are USA, Russia, Ukraine, Europe, China and Japan.

The cost of PSLV-C1 was about Rs. 60.00 crores and that of IRS-1D was Rs. 62.00 crores.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister had, *inter-alia*, stated that the science and technology programme of the country would remain multi-dimensional covering diverse areas such as defence, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and research. Expressing satisfaction with the scientific community, PM also said that every barrier was an opportunity for India to extend its own indigenous capabilities and called for the removal of all embargoes.

There are several international technology-denial regimes operated mainly by developed Western countries. These aim at denying to Indian industry such equipment and technology as would enable us to develop our scientific and technological capabilities.

Apprentices Act, 1961

191. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to cover certain vocational courses under Apprentices Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to cover 7 (Seven) vocational courses under the Apprentices Act, 1961. On examination it was found that these courses are already available for trade apprentices under the Apprentices Act, 1961 under one or other existing description. It was therefore felt that covering them again as proposed was not required.

[Translation]

Patent of Drugs

192. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scheme to patent the drug formulations; and

(b) if so, the name of drugs patented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Under the Indian Patents Act 1970 drug formulations *per se* are not eligible for grant of letters of patent.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Grievances of Grade I Officers

193. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from different ends including Members of Parliament highlighting the grievances of Grade-I officers of Central Secretariat Service during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances of Grade I officers of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) highlighted in the representations received during the last one year relate broadly to the preparation of the Common Seniority List of Section Officers and promotions to the Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service and above.

(c) No Select List for regular promotions to Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after the 1986 Select List owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. As a result, promotions to the grade of Deputy Secretary of Central Secretariat Service have also been affected. A final Common Seniority List of Section Officers was issued on 15.5.1996 in compliance with the order dated 22.3.1995 of the Central Administrative Tribunal which was again quashed by the judgement dated. 9.5.1997 of the Supreme Court. Action to redo the list in accordance with the Supreme Court's order dated 9.5.97 in some SLPs has been initiated. Promotions to the Grade I and above of the CSS can be reviewed/made only after the CSL is finalised afresh.